

Green Infrastructure Map Description:

Since Green Infrastructure (GI) looks at larger scale landscape systems, the map extends beyond the boundaries of the city to include entire watersheds or other key features that cross the political boundary of the city limit.

The map legend categories are defined more precisely as follows

Highly Developable/Currently Developed – White - Areas that are well suited for development and/or have existing development or infrastructure.

Some Green Infrastructure Elements - Yellow - Areas that are well suited for development with consideration of larger landscape systems, such as stormwater management, upland-wetland complexes, poor soils, unstable slopes, trails, habitat, etc. These areas will likely have associated incentives to realize economic benefits of well planned development.

Important Green Infrastructure Elements – light green - Development in these areas should consider the specific GI characteristics present. These are not critical natural areas. However, if, development in these areas is not done in a careful manner, it will have negative impacts on the larger landscape systems. Construction costs in these areas will probably cost significantly more if the natural characteristics are not considered. These are areas where the public and property owners should be made aware that there is some important characteristic that they should consider protecting (such as steep slope, valuable wildlife habitat, adjacent creeks, trails or wetlands). Carefully planned development that preserves or enhances the GI element would likely result in highly valuable real estate due to the presence of natural features and wildlife. These are areas that would benefit from clear development guidelines to preserve landscape systems, and would be eligible for special development or restoration incentives.

Critical green infrastructure – dark green - These areas have sensitive or critical landscape systems or connections and should be targeted for conservation. These areas are predominantly steep slope, critical wetlands, poor soils or other sensitive landscape feature. Development in these areas would be very difficult, expensive, or limited by existing federal regulation. Development in these areas will cause significant impacts on natural systems, neighboring development, view-sheds and the larger community. Development in these areas will increase the risks and associated costs from natural hazards such as landslides and flooding. These areas should be considered amenities to the city and residents for their value for stormwater management, habitat protection, watershed protection and may include trails or areas for passive recreation. Options for preserving these lands in conservation easements, land/development trades or other incentives should be explored for those areas held in private ownership.

This Green Infrastructure map is being generated from spatially explicit GIS base maps including and considering:

- Soils
- Creeks and drainages
- Stormwater management
- Wetlands
- Slopes
- Bluff erosion
- Vegetation habitat
- Wildlife habitat
- Construction costs (essentially development costs due to slope, road access, soils, wetlands, open water and drainages)
- Accessible lands - lands already served by road and w/s (basically a weighted buffer by infrastructure construction costs)
- Trails and public amenities
- Views and viewsheds